

# Are you looking after someone else's child?

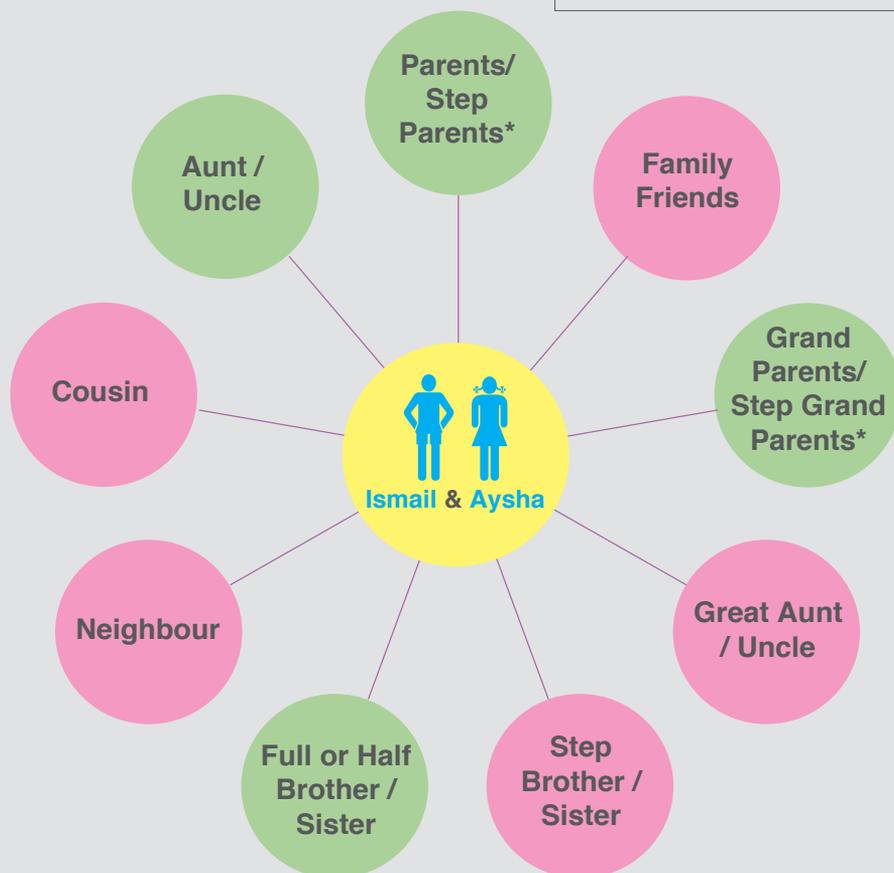
If you do so for more than 28 days, this could be a Private Fostering arrangement.



If you are in a green circle you can look after someone else's child for over 28 days without having to inform Children's Services.



If you are in a pink circle and you are looking after someone else's child for more than 28 days this could be a Private Fostering arrangement and Children's Services should be informed.



## What is Private Fostering?

A private fostering arrangement occurs when a child under age 16 (or 18 if the child is disabled) is cared for, and lives with, an adult who is not a close relative for 28 days or more. The Children Act 1989 defines a close relative as a grandparent, \*step-parent/ grandparent (by marriage), brother, sister, uncle or aunt.

For advice and support please contact:



**BLACKBURN**  
with  
**DARWEN**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

 (01254) 666400

[CYPReferrals@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:CYPReferrals@blackburn.gov.uk)

or visit [www.blackburn.gov.uk](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk)

# Private Fostering

## What Is Private Fostering?

We all love spending time together as a family but sometimes arguments happen, relationships break down, families can experience loss and bereavement, or family members may need to live abroad for a period of time for work, family or religious commitments such as Hajj.

## 28 Days

During this time your children or teenagers may be looked after by close friends of the family, or their own friends and their families. This can be for a few days or a few weeks, but did you know that after 28 days this becomes a more formal arrangement called Private Fostering?

The law says families must tell their Local Authority about Private Fostering arrangements. This is so we can be sure that all children are safe and we can provide vital information and support to people who are looking after someone else's child, from parental advice to claiming additional benefits and funding for essential items.

## Private Fostering could include:

- When a child or young person under 16 has an argument with their parents and goes to stay with their friend's family - after 28 days this is Private Fostering.
- When children or young people are sent to this country for education or for health care by their birth parents from overseas; or parents travel abroad and leave their child with a distant relative or family friend - after 28 days this is Private Fostering.
- When children or young people live with a friend's family or non-close relative as a result of parental separation, death, illness of a parent, or family conflict - after 28 days this is Private Fostering.
- When children or young people from abroad attend language schools in the UK and live with a host family - after 28 days this is Private Fostering.

If you are looking after someone else's child or are planning to in the future, or if you are considering asking someone to look after your child for more than 28 days, please contact us at:

 **(01254) 666400**

**[CYPReferrals@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:CYPReferrals@blackburn.gov.uk)**

**or visit [www.blackburn.gov.uk](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk)**